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**The
Marker
Lamp**



The Marker Lamp

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The Lone Star Region of the
National Model Railroad Association

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The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroad, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads and Dealer Ads should be addressed to Speed Muller lsrtreasurer@huntatroph.com

Cover photo
Beat Up White Shack
on Steve Jackobs' Taylor, TX module
by Riley Triggs

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President's Message

by Chuck Lind, MMR
Chucklind46@gmail.com

Fall is in the air but don't let that keep you out of the train room. As the weather in Texas turns to fall, we get those pleasant days we have been waiting for since spring, but don't let that derail you from your modeling. November is Model Railroad Month so be sure and share this great hobby with others.

In the Houston area, modelers have been sharing that with others through model train open houses for over 50 years. This year we have 53 model train layouts on the tour which stretches from Beaumont through Houston, to College Station and Brenham. Nine of these layouts are new to the layout tours list for the first time.

The one that pleases me the most in the Hogg Middle School Modular Layout. This is a group of young students (we had a couple of youth modelers from here) that participate in an after-school model railroad program. They will be setting up their modular layout two Saturday's in December, the 7th and 14th, if you are in the area please drop by and support them they are the future of our hobby. Full details on the Houston Layout tours can be found at www.sanjacmodeltrains.org including hours when the school will be open.

I took my normal trip to the National Narrow Gauge Convention the first part of September. This year Don Formanek and I did things a little differently, we took the train. We drove to Denver (didn't catch in in Chicago since I have seen all the cornfields) to catch the California Zephyr to Sacramento, California.

The trip from Denver the Glenwood Springs takes you through some really unbelievable scenery and is well worth the trip. You travel through Utah mostly at night and the next morning you pick up a couple of folks in Reno that are from the California Railroad Museum that will tell you the history and point out historic areas while you pass through the Sierra mountains. When we arrived, we headed up to the gold mining and logging areas in the Sierras.

We even meet up with a group of Dallas area modelers led by Marc LaChey for a tour of the Knight Foundry in Sutters Creek, well worth the trip. After 4 days and nights of clinics, layout tours and the vendor room we boarded the train back to Denver. Laurie met me in Denver and Don flew on back to Houston.



*What Jeff Palmer does when he is not doing LSR stuff
Laws Railroad Museum-Bishop, CA (photo by Marc LaChey)*

Have you registered for the LSR Convention in Houston? Yes, this year it will be a little different, it happens to be in February in conjunction with the Greater Houston Train Show.

We will have all of our normal activities starting on Thursday evening, with clinics, fellowship and the contest room. The big difference will be on Saturday, there will still be some great clinics but attendees of the LSR convention will get in early to the train show before it opens to the public.

Admission to the train show is included in your registration. Sign up and make you hotel reservation, and enjoy Houston without the heat and humidity. I look forward to seeing everyone in February.

I need to get back to work in the train room, my open house weekend is quickly approaching. I have scenery to finish, track to clean, and a layout room that needs to be straightened out. Nothing like an open house to get you busy on the layout. If your club or Division hasn't done it in the past you might consider sharing your layouts with the public to celebrate National Model Railroad month in the future. Who knows, you may even pick up some new members and friends. I know I have.



Scripted versus scaffolded operating sessions

by Riley Triggs

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ponyrr.blogspot.com

modelrailroadesign.blogspot.com



Dave Steensland (left) and Steve Sandifer (right) photograph Leo & Lorrie Palitti's fantastic Black Bear & Bayou Railroad before the Saturday night operating session during the Dallas Interchange weekend.

I was fortunate to attend the DFW Interchange operating weekend earlier this month, and I had tremendous fun operating, chatting and learning a few things along the way. There was a lot packed into three days in a well-organized sandbox of trains.

Operating four unfamiliar layouts in the course of 42 hours challenges the body and stretches the mind. The sandbox included different operating styles (laid back, intense, prototypical, fanciful, informal, stressful, relaxing, educational), different levels of difficulty, different railroads, and different rules that kept me on my toes. Out of all these differences, a moment of clarity about hosting and crafting operating sessions came to the fore.

Op sessions are most fun when you are set up to succeed by performing within a scaffolding (general framework with guardrails to keep you from falling) of instructions that let you figure out how to do something instead of acting out a set script that must be done precisely or else you fail.

The more you dictate to operators exactly how they must do things on your layout, the less likely they are to feel like they are playing and the more they will feel stressed as if they were working. The play (recreational and flexibility) in the scaffolded operating scheme allows problem solving to be fun through creativity. Being scripted exactly how to do a job focuses an operator on remembering and following orders rather than enjoying the activity of figuring out how to get to the outcome. Scaffolded play is active participation while more prescriptive work is a passive chore.

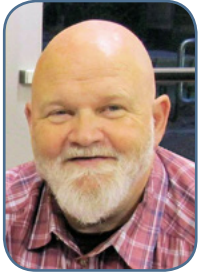
If you are a layout owner, consider whether your session is scripted or scaffolded, and whether it is more important for something to happen exactly how you want it to, or if it would be more fun for everyone if operators got to play alongside you in your sandbox of trains.

Riley



Kevin Buchanan signals it's time to have fun at James Peterson's prototype Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe, Dallas District layout on Sunday morning.

Up the Tracks Events Calendar



*By Bill Dryden
NMRA & LSR Life Member*

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net.

Lone Star Region 2020 Annual Convention
Arriving Soon, the Sunset Limited, the 2020 NMRA Lone Star Region Convention!
February 13 -- 15, 2020 at the Stafford Centre in Stafford, TX
More information: <http://www.turbotrains.com/sunset2020/> or visit <http://www.lonestarregion.com/>
Come all!!!
PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 2 -- Metairie, LA
LSR Division 2 meets on Mondays between July 30th to October 1st at the Crescent City Model Railroad Club, 601 N. Lester Ave in Metairie, LA 70003 at 6:30 PM for Modular Monday. We will continue building our modular layout by building benchwork, designing the track, laying the roadbed and track, wiring, planning scenery, installing the scenery and basically building a modular project railroad and teaching all the steps along the way so that we can get the layout operating in time for an event in October. We will also use the layout for the Ponchatoula Train Shows. This will officially be a Lone Star Region, Division 2 project, so no club affiliation is necessary except for being an NMRA member. If you are interested, please come out to participate and help. The more modules we can build the larger the layout can be. For more information contact Ken Mason at series9parts@cox.net.

LSR Division 3 - Trinity River Division – Allen

The Trinity River Division meets on the Third Saturday of every month at the Christ Servant Lutheran Church, Allen Texas. Occasionally things change due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the email meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list contact Donna Orr at donnalorrtx@gmail.com.

LSR Division 4 – Cen-Tex Division – Austin

The Cen-Tex Division meets bi-monthly at the Austin Northwest Recreational Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX. Meetings are held at 10:00 am on the Second Saturday of the odd months and include clinics, show-and-tell, DCC minute, social activities and a layout open house. For more information about upcoming meetings, see <http://centexnmra.org> or contact director@centexnmra.org to be added to the mail list.

LSR Division 8 - Texas Gulf Division – Houston

The Texas Gulf Division presents hands-on-clinics every second Saturday of each month at the Bayland Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. The clinic times are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All are welcome. To be added to the Division 8 mailing list contact Jim Lemmond at jimlem@comcast.net. The Division 8 web site is <http://texasgulfdivision.org/>

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio

The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Austin Model Railway Society - Austin

The Austin Model Railway Society is a HO scale modular group that is open to new members and meets once a month. For more information please email Riley Triggs at president@austinrailway.org or visit the web site www.austinrailway.org.

Houston Area Live Steamers

HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White – rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum

Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street, in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot; New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) Scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities, additional model trains, train artifacts, our 1907 depot are on display. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Howard Young (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

Texas Northern Model Railroad Club – Plano

The Texas Northern Model Railroad Club business meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month and for regular meetings on Thursday evenings and most Saturdays. If you like to operate, come by on Tuesday nights to check on our progress in setting up operations. Located in Colin Creek Mall, Plano, TX, outside JC Penney's on the lower level. For more information: www.modelrailroadclub.org.

Texas Western Model Railroad Club – Forest Hills

The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cdo@twmrc.org.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

September

- 7th Lone Star Division/Train Collectors Association Toy Train & Swap Meet Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Collin College Central Park Campus Conference Center, 2200 W. University Drive, McKinney, TX. More information: Jon Dell'Antonia (972) 640-5067.
- 14th Fall Fun Fest 2019. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Admission \$5. Rosenberg Railroad Museum, 1921 Avenue F, Rosenberg, TX. More information: www.rosenbergrrmuseum.org/fall-fun-fest.
- 21st – 22nd 37th Annual Temple Model Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Adults \$7, \$1 discount for seniors and active duty military and dependents with ID, 12 and under Free. Frank Mayborn Center, 3303 N. 3rd Street, Temple, TX. More information: www.centramod.rr.com.

October

- 5th Annual Cotton Belt Railroad Symposium. Sam Rayburn Student Center, Texas A&M Student Center, Commerce, TX. For more information: www.cottonbeltroute.com.
- 12th Fall Plano Train Show. (Sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs). Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adult \$10, 12 and under Free w/ Adult. Plano Civic Centre, 2000 E Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. More information: www.dfttrainshows.com.
- 26th – 27th 11th Annual Fall Model Train Show. (Sponsored by New Braunfels Railroad Museum). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults \$8 (14 & older), Child \$2 (3-13 years old). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. More information: <http://newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/nbrr/train-shows/> or Jim Edmondson at: jedmondson@satx.rr.com.

November

- 2nd TCA Train Show. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission \$5. First Baptist Church Gym, 325 E. Pine St., Ponchatoula, LA. More information: Clay Fourrier at trains@dovetailstudio.com.
- 30th Crescent City Model Railroad Club Open House. Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults \$7, Children 6-12 \$3, 5 and under Free. 601 N Lester Ave, Metairie, LA. More information: (504) 737-3723 or www.ccmrc.com.

December

- 14th Crescent City Model Railroad Club Open House (Santa is Coming!). Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults \$7, Children 6-12 \$3, 5 and under Free. 601 N Lester Ave, Metairie, LA. More information: (504) 737-3723 or www.ccmrc.com.
- 21st Crescent City Model Railroad Club Open House. Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults \$7, Children 6-12 \$3, 5 and under Free. 601 N Lester Ave, Metairie, LA. More information: (504) 737-3723 or www.ccmrc.com.

January 2020

- 4th Crescent City Model Railroad Club Open House. Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults \$7, Children 6-12 \$3, 5 and under Free. 601 N Lester Ave, Metairie, LA. More information: (504) 737-3723 or www.ccmrc.com.
- 18th – 19th Dallas Area Train Show. (Sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs). Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adult \$10, 12 and under Free w/ Adult. Plano Civic Centre, 2000 E Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. More information: www.dfttrainshows.com.
- 25th Train Day @ Jones Creek Regional Library. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission: Free. 6222 Jones Creek Rd, Baton Rouge, LA. More information: Clay Fourrier at trains@dovetailstudio.com.

February 2020

- 15th Greater Houston Train Show. (Sponsored by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults \$6, Children 12 to 18 \$1, Under 12 Free. Stafford Center, 10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX. More information at <http://sanjacmodeltrains.org/>.

March 2020

- 7th TCA Train Show. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission \$5. First Baptist Church Gym, 325 E. Pine St., Ponchatoula, LA. More information: Clay Fourrier at trains@dovetailstudio.com.

April 2020

- 19th – 20th New Braunfels 32nd Annual Train Show Jamboree. (Sponsored by New Braunfels Railroad Museum). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults \$8 (14 & older), Child \$2 (3-13 years old). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. More information: www.newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/trainshow.

Excursion Train Trips

Austin Steam Train; Cedar Park, TX; (512) 477-8468; www.austinsteamtrain.org

Grapevine Vintage Railroad; Grapevine, TX; (817) 410-3185; www.gvrr.com

Old Hickory Railroad; Jackson, LA; (225) 634-7397; www.louisianasteamtrain.com

Texas State Railroad; Palestine & Rusk, TX; (888) 987-2461; www.texasstaterr.com

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.



Who's track goes there?



You tell me who's layout this big photo is from, and I give the first person to email me the correct answer at rrduino@huntatrophy.com a campfire lighting Arduino next time we meet! Last "Who's track" winner:

Do you live in central Texas?



Whether you're new to model railroading,
want a large layout but don't have the room,
or just want to hang out with friends...

Come join us!

We're an HO scale modular club with regular meetings in the Austin area. Members participate in many ways, from software to scenery to operations.



Check out all our website at austinrailway.org for more information and how to join.
You can also reach us at info@austinrailway.com or (512) 836-5275.

...RRRduino...

by Speed

Brand new **Arduino Pro IDE** software in Alpha release!

Sometimes you need to update the software tools you use to have access to more kinds of hardware and sometimes we upgrade or switch to a new kind of tool to have more features in the software itself. The Arduino folks have just released a new full featured development environment as reported [here](#)!

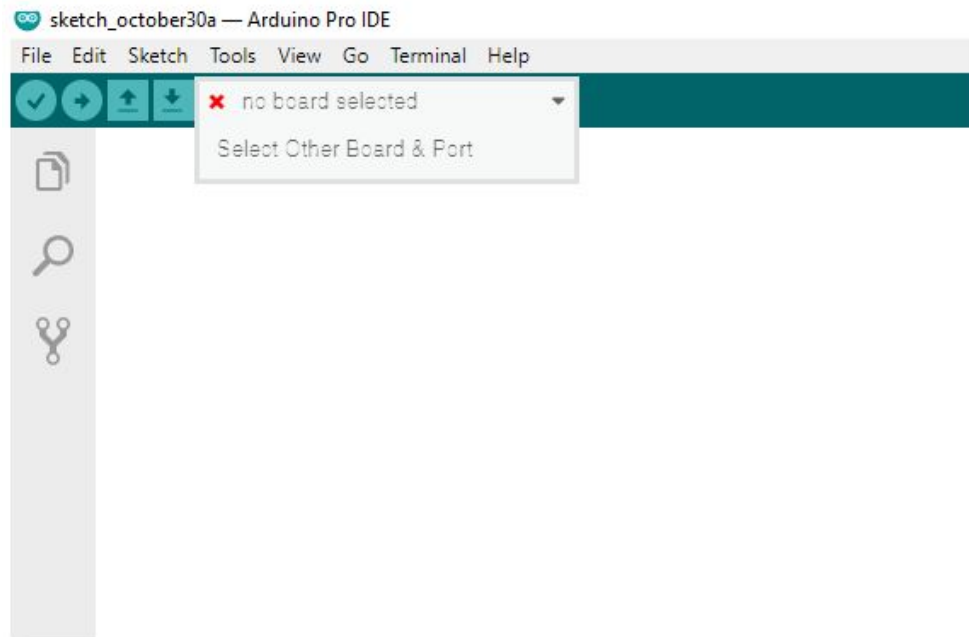


So while you can read all about the new features everywhere else on the Internet, let's download the new tool and see if we can use it to write, compile and upload some code onto an Arduino, just the basic stuff.

First, you can [download the latest release of the Arduino Pro IDE here](#). It downloads into your PC as a 145 MB zip file name arduino-pro-ide-0.0.2-alpha.preview-windows.zip. And to unzip it into a folder, you would need about 380 MB more space.

Windows first: Once unzipped, you double click on the **Arduino Pro IDE.exe** and when my Windows 10 PC complained about the unrecognized app, I went to **More Info** and selected **Run anyway**.

The application will launch and it won't be a big shock when it does not look all that different, until you start clicking around in the menus and realized that things have changed! To select a board and a port now, there is a drop down arrow right next to the save icon on the toolbar:



Select **Other Board & Port** brings you to a window where you can search for your hardware. I love shortcuts and searchable things like Windows-q, so typing in **Nano** here was a delight! Select **Arduino Nano** and then also select **COM4** (or the COM port shown when your Nano is plugged in) and hit the big OK green button.

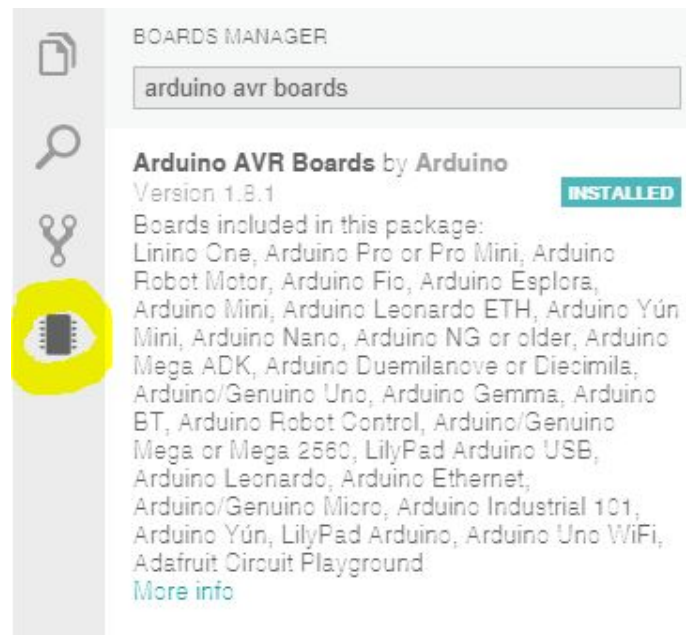
You will now see a pop up window at the bottom right asking you to also install the **Arduino AVR Boards core**. If you missed it, there is a little bell icon with the number of messages behind it, click on that and now you can select **Yes** to install the core.



Installing Arduino AVR Boards. Please wait!!!

The **Output window** will show you what it is doing, and when done, you will see the **Boards Manager** slide in from the left to show the Version 1.8.1 successfully installed. Clicking the **IC** in the yellow circle will slide this back out of the way, or back in if you need to see it again.

The icons above the **IC** is the **EXPLORER**, where you will find all your files in the project (or sketch, rather), a **SEARCH** function and the **SOURCE CONTROL** icon for using a **repository**. No, nothing medical...this is where you go to when you want to use code someone else's code straight from the place they keep it on the internet, or share your code and its changes with someone on the 'net.



Selecting your file in the **EXPLORER** will show the usual `void setup() { }` and `void loop() { }` again. So let's punch in some keystrokes and then compile.

Also note in the File menu, there is an **Auto Save** that you should keep checked to make sure it saves when you attempt to **COMPILE** (or **VERIFY**).

```
#define VERSION "2019.10.30 Testing Pro IDE v0.002"
#define BAUDRATE 115200
#define LEDPIN 13

int timeout = 1000;

long int now;
long int previous;

// Run once
void setup( ) {
  Serial.begin( BAUDRATE );
  pinMode( LEDPIN, OUTPUT );
  digitalWrite( LEDPIN, HIGH );
  Serial.println( VERSION );
  now = previous = millis();
} // setup( )

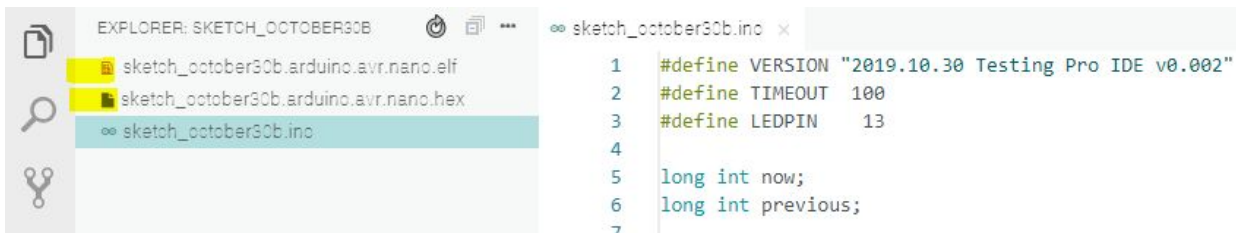
// Run repeatedly
void loop( ) {
  now = millis();
  if ( now - previous >= timeout ) {
    previous = now;
```

```

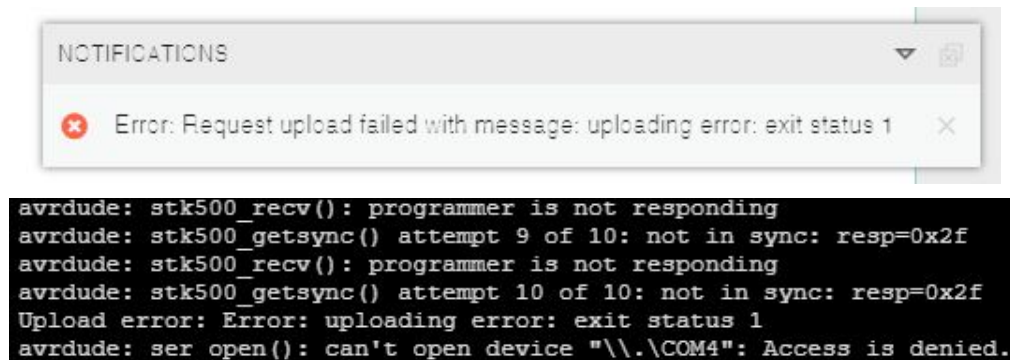
digitalWrite( LEDPIN, !digitalRead( LEDPIN ) );
timeout = random( 30, 1000 );
Serial.println( timeout, DEC);
} // if TIMEOUT
} // loop( )

```

After you have compiled the code, you will also see two more files in the **EXPLORER**, a **.elf** and a **.hex** file. These are the output files from the compilation, something you did not have easy access to in the past, since it created them in a temporary folder on your PC, and would be wiped when you restarted the computer. Now you can, hopefully, upload the same output file to more than one board, without the need to compile your code again.



But, when I clicked the **UPLOAD** button, I ran into some trouble:



Not quite sure how to avoid this yet, but after changing a 100 things in the settings, I finally got it to upload when you press the **RESET** button on your Arduino at the right time. That time is when the compiler is done with the code and the **avrdude** tool tries to upload the **.hex** file. Your mileage might vary on when to press **RESET**, but it is a new feature I don't like!

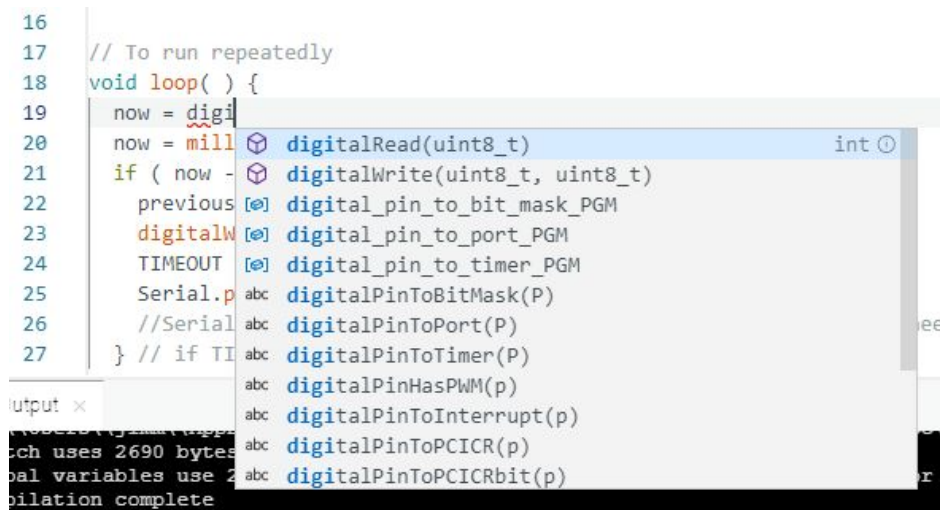
Also notice the small 'x' at the end of any error line in the **NOTIFICATIONS window**. You want to click those 'x' marks to get rid of the messages, because they will all pile up there and make troubleshooting a lot harder on the next try.

F1 brings up a search window for commands, and yes, there are quite a few more than you will ever need, but I could not find **VERIFY**, **COMPILE**, nor **UPLOAD**. **Ctrl+s** is still **File->Save**, but there is no shortcut for my favorite **UPLOAD** (**Ctrl+u**), since the command is not in the list.

When you press the **Toggle Advanced Mode** button in the top right, the view goes back to what we are all used to, but **Ctrl+u** still does not **UPLOAD**.

Another big thing that I can't get to work is the **Serial Port Monitor**, and if you read some prior articles here, you will know how insistent I am on printing the VERSION string of your code with `Serial.println( );`

One of the first benefits of the Pro IDE, is the autocompletion as you type, for example when you only type in `now = digi`



the IDE will present you with the dropdown box shown above. You can either click on something in the list or use the **down cursor** and **enter key** to select the function you want. No need to type everything out anymore. But, now you will also discover functions that you have never seen before. What does `digitalPinHasPWM(P)` do? When you research these new functions, you might learn a lot more than you expected.

In the **Coming Soon** department, they also promise to bring:

- A debugger, where you can set breakpoints, view trace, step through execution and much more, which will allow you to debug your application without affecting timing with a `Serial.println()`
- Support for additional languages other than C++ as well as new third party boards, libraries and IDE function plug-ins

So all these features are really cool, but I can't say I will use it until the Serial Port Monitor is working again! Maybe the **Debugger** could lure me over, but that does not exist in v0.0.2-alpha.preview yet. So, fingers crossed, since this is only in Alpha release, maybe we get a real useful tool released soon!

What next? Your turn! **ML**

How to Build a Remote Oil Storage Tank

By Leo & Lorrie Palitti



Editor's note: See next issue for how to make the pump house.

Tools Needed

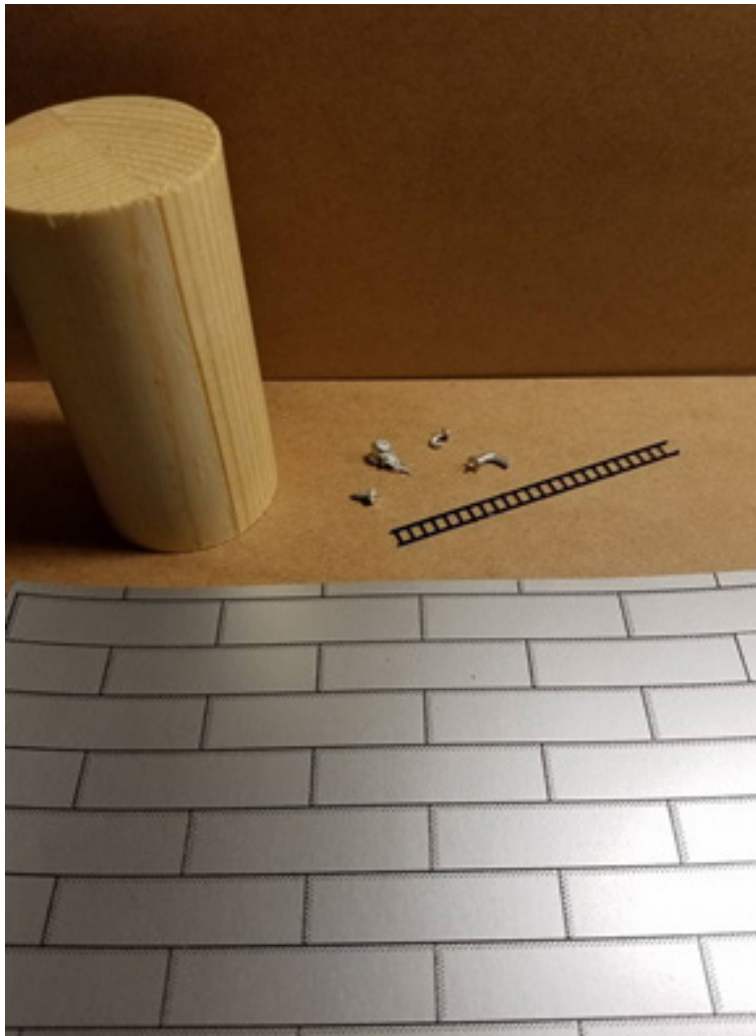
Xacto knife w/#11 blade
Elmers Glue
Black Acrylic Paint
2" Hole Punch
Dull Cote
Double sided Mounting Film
Popsicle stick
Shop towel (blue paper)
Sanding stick

Materials Needed

2" dowel cut to desired length (5" max)
1 SS Limited 90 degree elbow
1 SS Limited vent
1 SS Limited gate valve & wheel
1 SS Limited straight pipe
1 SS Limited steel plating 1 Central Valley
ladder
Steel Pin
SS Limited Steel Plating

Step 1

Lay detail parts out and spray paint them. I chose black with a red wheel. When slightly rusted and dry brushed the black looks very nice.



Step 2

Draw a vertical line on opposite sides of the dowel. Using a square works but it's not easy to hold against the roundness of the dowel. If you'll butt the dowel against the edge of your workbench and hold a piece of scrap wood against the dowel as a guide and draw your two lines.





Step 3

You want to cut a piece of mounting film to fit around the dowel. Using a piece of scrap paper, wrap it completely around the dowel, mark it and cut the rectangle piece out. Test fit it around the dowel and when you've seen it's a perfect fit, lay it on the mounting film, trace it and cut out a matching piece of mounting film, test fit again.



Step 4

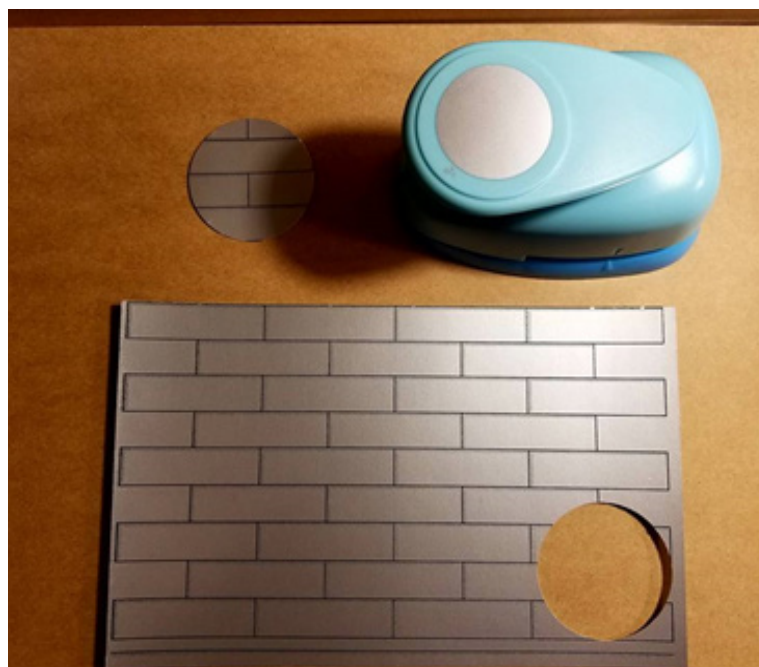
Now you are going to apply the mounting film. Peel off ONE SIDE of the film (save this piece) and using one of the lines you drew earlier as a guide, apply the film SLOWLY to avoid any buckling. If by chance your mounting film overlaps, no need to panic, just simply cut away the overlapping film leaving a small area uncovered.





Step 5

Now you want to cut the Steel Plating. First, let's cut out the top of the tank using the 2" hole punch. Cut from the corner of the paper on the bottom (rivets are at the top of each panel). If you'll cut as close to the edges as possible, you will use only one sheet for this project. This stuff is very rigid and not easy to work with. To keep this easy, we'll use the piece of backing removed in Step 4 as a template and add 1/16" to the width. Take your template and place it on the plating and trace your pattern. Mark the template on the sheet keeping the rows of rivets at the top. Now, cut it out using a NEW #11 blade and plan on making 8-10 passes for each cut. Sure, you can cut it in one pass but if you do, the paint will pop off everywhere. **Notice that the steel plating does not extend to the edge of the sheet and is not printed squarely on the sheet. Trim the excess off the edges and across the top before tracing your template. If you're just a tiny bit short from cutting the entire template (because of the 2" hole) not to worry, we'll hide that on the backside of the tank later on.



Step 6

Test fit the piece of plating you just cut around your dowel. Hold it very firm and mark off any excess and trim it away before we apply it to the dowel. If there is any overlap or if the plating doesn't quite reach, that's OK, that will be hidden by the ladder later on. Make sure the rivets are at the top. If there is a little overhang at the bottom that will be trimmed off later.





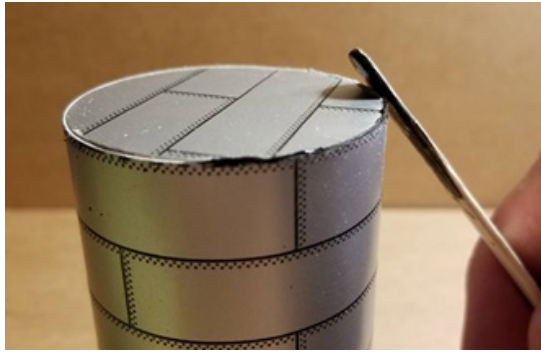
Step 7

Roll up the plating by hand a few times (not too tight) to give the plating a more natural curve to it. Now, remove the backside of the double tack sheet on the dowel and using the line opposite the double tack line as a guide, apply your steel plating keeping the row of rivets at the top. Go slowly and make sure there are no gaps. Once complete, roll it over a clean, flat, hard place to secure it to the dowel. You may want to run a tiny bead of Elmer's between the two pieces just to make sure it won't let loose later on.

Step 8

Now you want to put the round top for the tank on. Before we do this, make sure plating is smooth across the top of the tank. Use a fine grit sanding stick to make sure it's even and smooth. Now, apply Elmer's glue to the top of the tank and spread it evenly with your finger. DO NOT put too much glue or it will warp the round tank top. Apply pressure to the top for a couple of minutes until the glue starts to set.





Step 9

You'll notice a very small gap between the top and the plating on the side of the tank. We'll eliminate that right now. On a piece of scrap wood, squeeze out 3 parts Elmer's glue to one part black acrylic paint. Using a popsicle stick, mix the two together. Wipe your popsicle stick clean and dip the flat edge into the mixture. You want as little as possible to remain on the stick. Hold your tank in one hand and slowly rotate using a pulling motion leave a tiny bead of the glue mixture along the seam of the tank top and side. Keep a damp paper towel next to you in case you get too much on and need to wipe some off. Set aside to dry.

Step 10

Cut off one rung from the top of your ladder. Measure the ladder so the top rung is even with the top of the tank (leaving the two now extended side rails sticking above the top of the tank). Now put the ladder in place over the seam of the plating in order to hide the seam. Elmer's will work for this, I prefer Flamingo glue from Northeastern Scale Lumber (order on line). Hold the ladder in place for 2-3 minutes until dry.

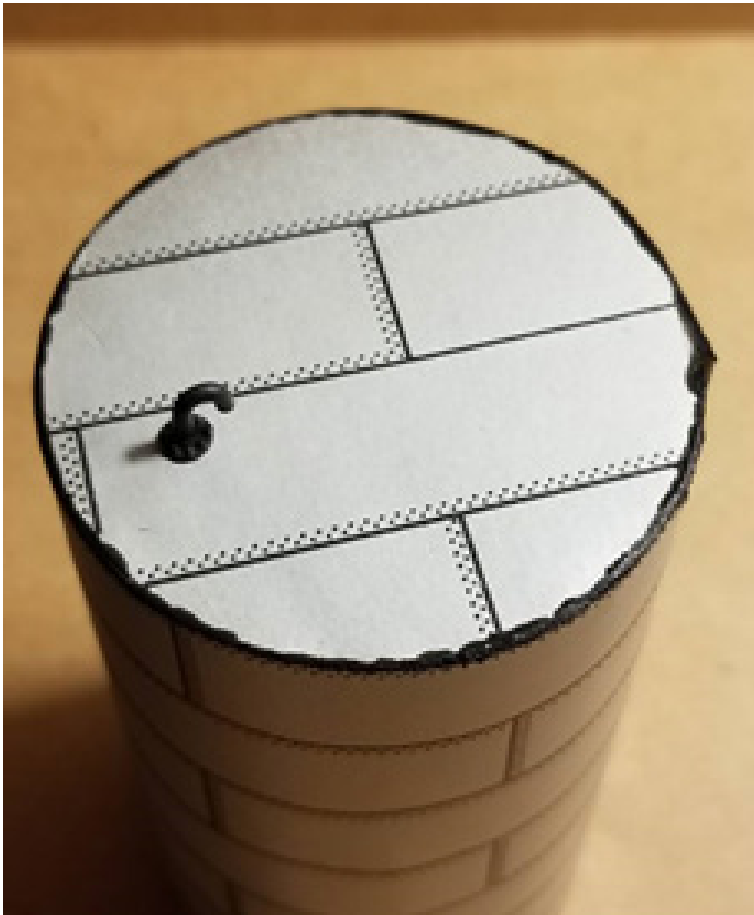


Step 11

To add the vent to the top of the tank, drill a small hole, add a small drop of glue to the vent and set in place a half inch from the edge. NOTE: An access hatch on the roof is a nice addition but we don't have time for it. I suggest a 3/8" hole punch with your scrap plating and adding some NBW's around the edge then mounting it on a thin piece of 3/8" cardstock. Use the Elmers/ black acrylic mixture to hide the edges.

Step 12

Time to assemble the valve and pipes. These will go 90 degrees away from the ladder you installed earlier. The straight valve flange will go into the tank up 5/16" from the bottom so drill a small hole there. The best way to get this in place is to assemble the pieces separately. First the valve and wheel may require a little cleaning up. Clean the hole in the wheel with your pinvice. Next, drill out the holes in the valve so it may receive the pipes easily. If you try to force the stem into the hole it will break (I know this). Use the pictures as a guide. Once all is glued together, let dry and take your tank outside and spray with Dullcote.



Step 13

Add the sub assembly to the tank. Check and make sure the valve is parallel to the ground, adjust if needed. **ML**

Editor's note: See next issue for how to make the pump house!



Summer Travels

By John Garfield

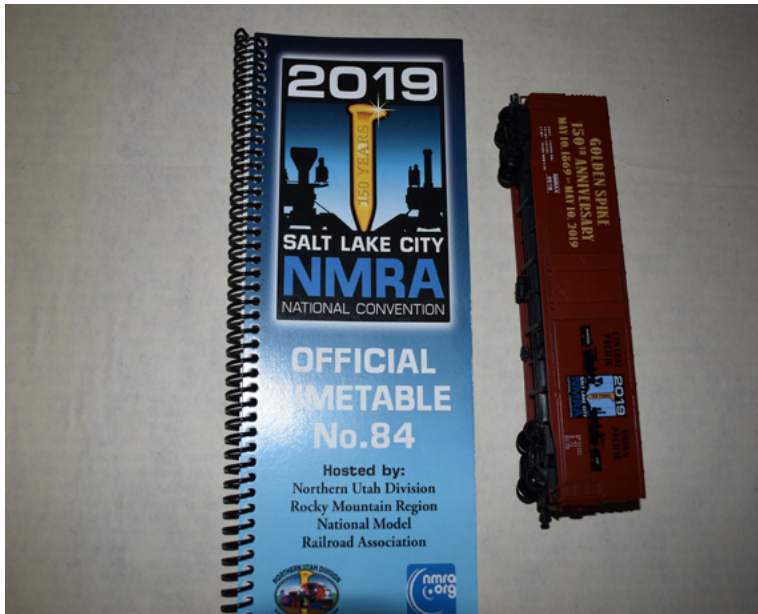
July was our extensive road trip to southern Utah to see the Arches. Staying in Monticello, Utah, we toured the Bears Ears National Park and Arches National Park then onto Salt Lake for the National NMRA Conference. After seeing the Tabernacle Choir on Sunday morning we went onto my alma mater Utah State University in Logan , Utah. Big changes in 50 years since graduation.

Promontory Point was next on our way up to Yellowstone National Park with a view of the Grand Tetons on way. Beautiful scenery, cool weather and lots of wildlife including deer, elk and buffalo roaming everywhere, and of course, mountains. Next was Hill City, SD, where we rode the 1880 Train, visited Mt. Rushmore and traveled the mountains there. Terrific trip, lots of photos and great memories.

Promontory, Utah

I had been to Promontory 50 years ago while attending Utah State University. It has changed a great deal with a new visitor center and rebuilt UP and CP operating engines on display. I missed the 150 year festivities that were held about two weeks prior and the UP Big Boy that was redone in Cheyenne and brought to Ogden, Utah. It was still exciting to visit.



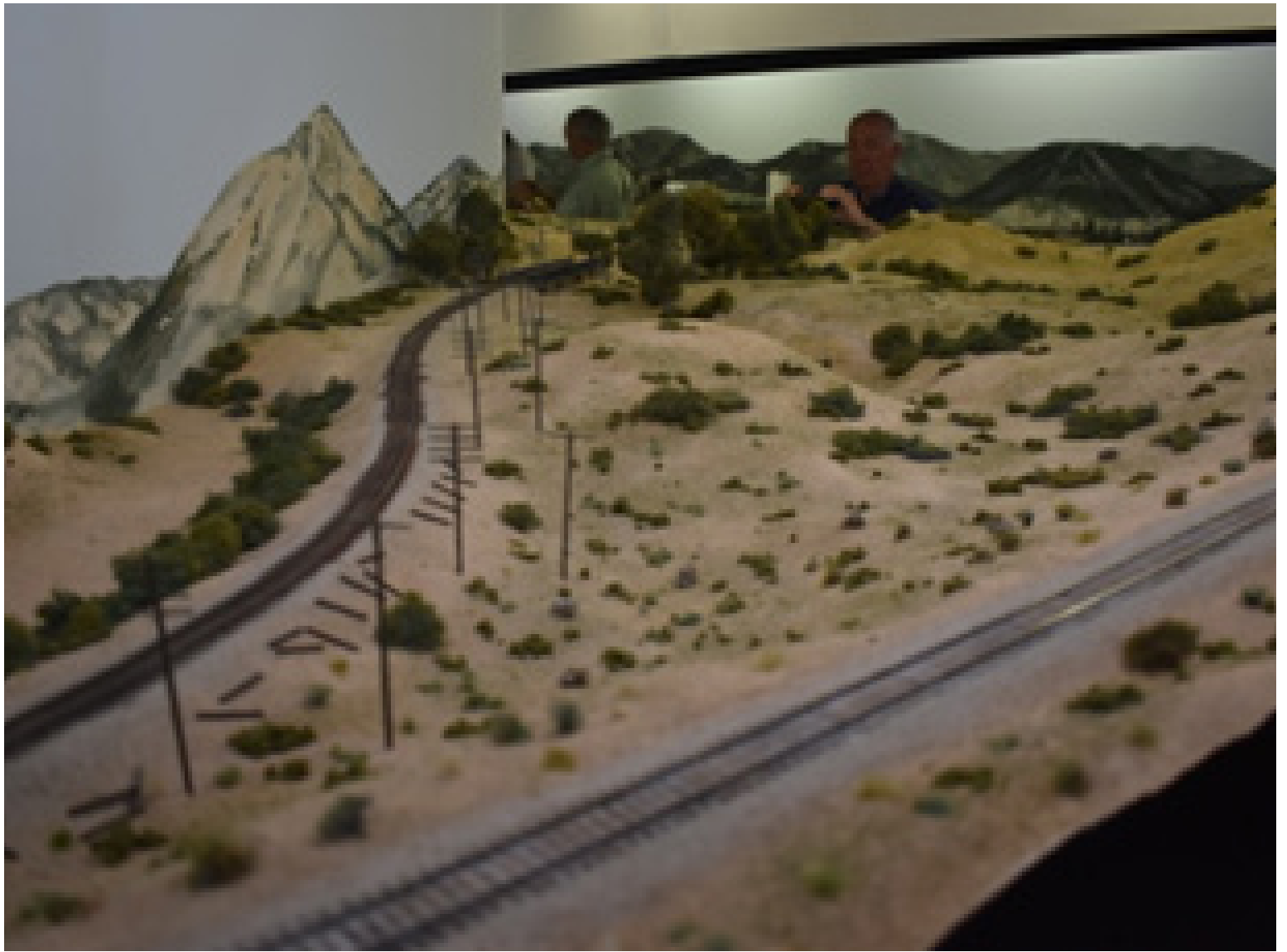






1880 Train, Hill City, SD

The 1880 Train was a fun three hour excursion ride pulled by an old back woods 2-6-6-2 saddle tank from Washington State. Lots of wildlife along the way and a few historic sites of mines and other activities dating back to the early 1900's. The adjacent train museum was of interest too with an old UP caboose to investigate.





Ted York, AT&SF RR

I had time to visit and run one railroad while at the conference and was lucky to get the last pass on Ted York's RR. Ted lives a little south of Salt Lake and is a professional photographer. His railroad is first class and runs very well (except for a couple power problems during the visit).

The RR is based on Cajon Pass in the '40's and '50's. It runs ATSF and UP trains and features 300' of hand laid track with a staging yard on each end. Most structures are hand-made and rock features are hand carved. It was featured in the 2004 Model Railroad Planning and 2005 Great Model Railroads. Web site is www.tedyorkphotography.com, "Teds Trains." **ML**





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STAFFORD
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STAFFORD



Director Reports



Cowcatcher Division 1

by Mike Mackey, MMR

director@cowcatcherdivision.org

cowcatcherdivision.com



No report



Bayou Division 2

by Ken Mason

series9parts@cox.net

504-722-6610



Division 2 is continuing with operations at the Mid-South Club in Baton Rouge and the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in the New Orleans Area. I have not heard of any other operations taking place in our area.

Mid-South hosted open house dates in October and the CCMRC is gearing up for their open house season starting in late November and running through early January, 2020.

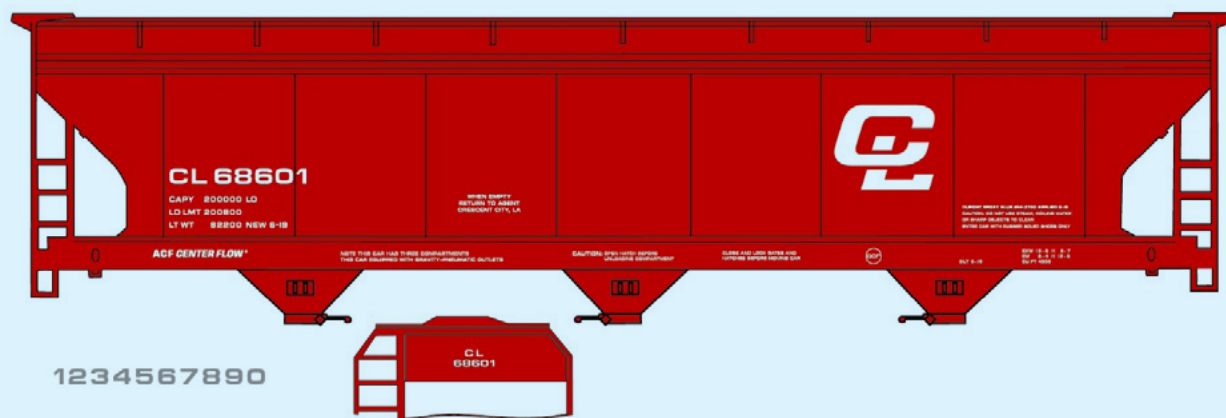
Our area TCA group once again hosted the Ponchatoula Train Show on November 2 and was well attended with many operating layouts and plenty of vendors with items for sale.

We are also gearing up for our Division 2 Train Day at the Library to be held on April 25, 2020 at the East Bank Regional Library in Metairie, Louisiana. This will be the first train show of any kind in our area in a very long while beside the open house dates that have been hosted by the CCMRC for the last few years. We already have commitments from the Crescent City S-Gaugers, who have a large 20 x 25 foot "S" scale modular layout, The CCMRC with their growing modular layout, Operation Lifesaver, the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders, the Louisiana Train Collectors Association and the Santa Fe Historical & Modeling Society.

I am hoping to recruit a few more attendees and get a few more smaller running layouts to attend to make a good showing at the library and in this area to promote the hobby of model railroading and railroad safety.

Finally, it seems that membership in Division 2 is holding pretty steady with 107 members for the past 3 months and is up from 105 back in July. Hopefully we can continue this trend of small growth and not lose any members.

That's it from Division 2 this time. Looking forward to the convention in the Houston area in February.



CCMRC ACF Covered Hopper Club Car Order Form

The Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, Louisiana is offering this Accurail Crescent Lines ACF Center Flow 3 bay covered hopper in HO Scale. It is available for a donation of \$30.00 for each car, plus \$6.00 shipping for the first car and \$2.00 for each additional car ordered. It is available in 1 road number, but additional number decals will be available for \$4.00 per set.

To order your car or cars, please send your payment made out to CCMRC for the correct amount to:

Crescent City Model Railroad Club

601 N. Lester Ave

Metairie, LA 70003-6131

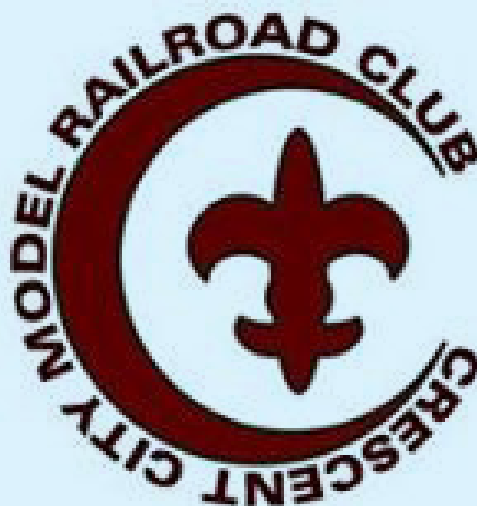
Quantity: _____ X \$30.00 each

Total for cars: \$ _____

Shipping: \$6.00

Additional Shipping per car \$2.00 ea. \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____



Thank You for supporting the Crescent City Model Railroad Club





North East Texas Division 3

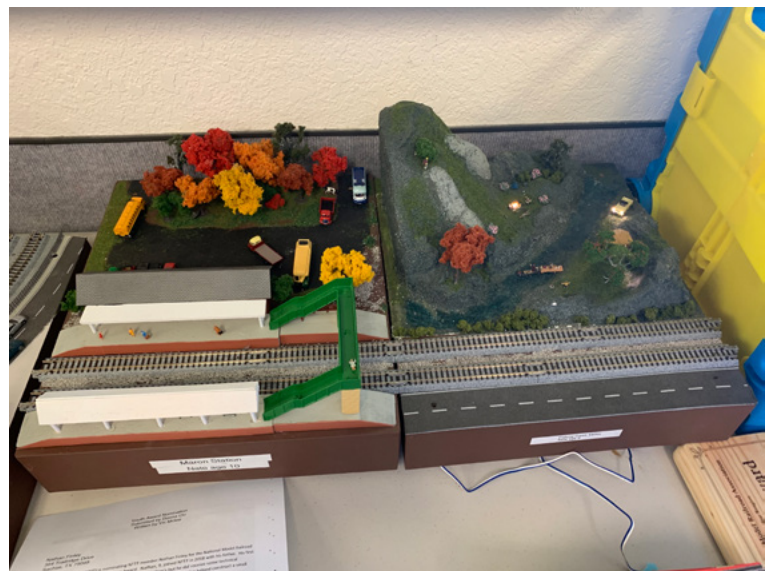
by Donna Orr

donnalorrtx@gmail.com

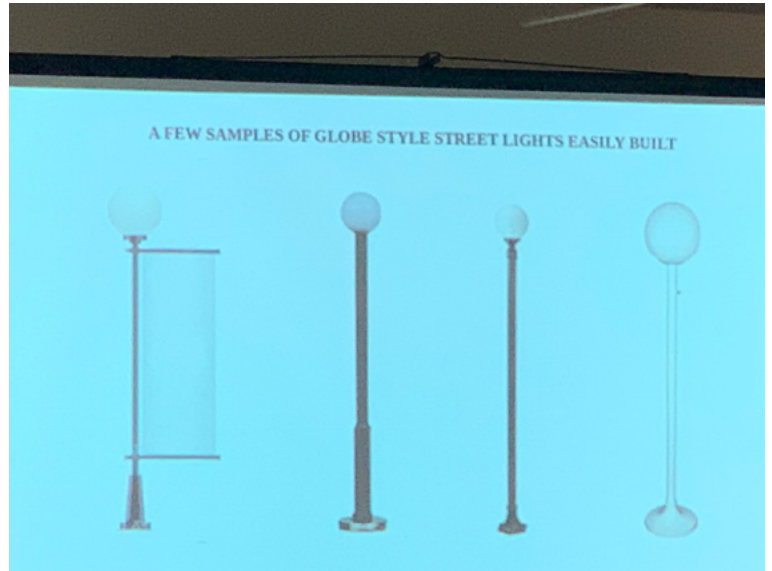
972-342-8598



In August, our 4 youth that were awarded the LSR Youth awards were recognized at this meeting so our members that were not able to attend the convention would see the talent that we have in our young members. Kathryn Moore and Nathan Finley brought in their TTrak modules for us to see.

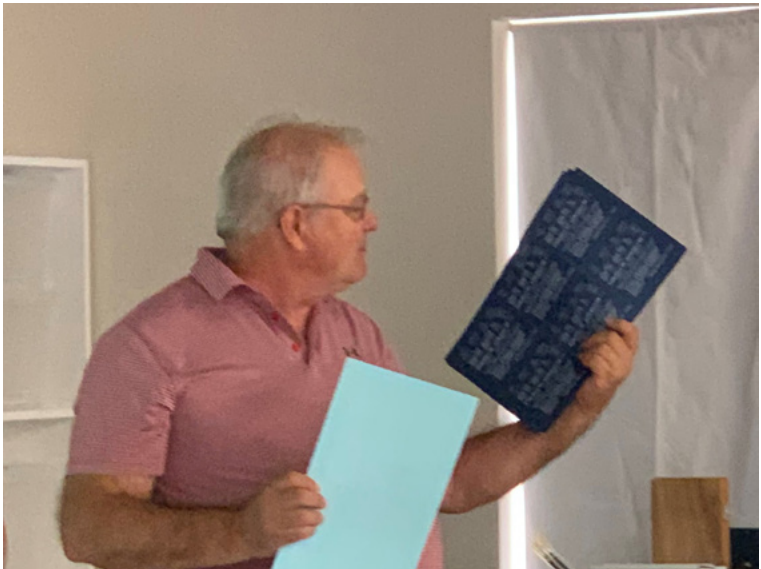
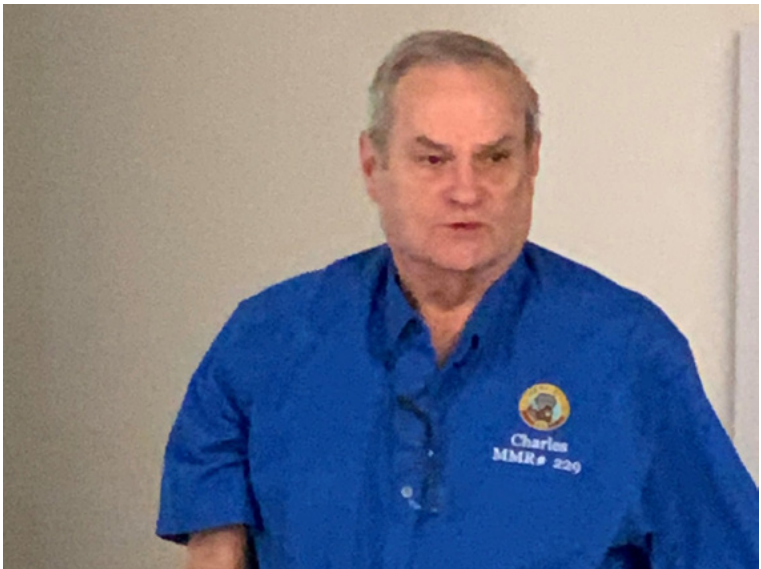
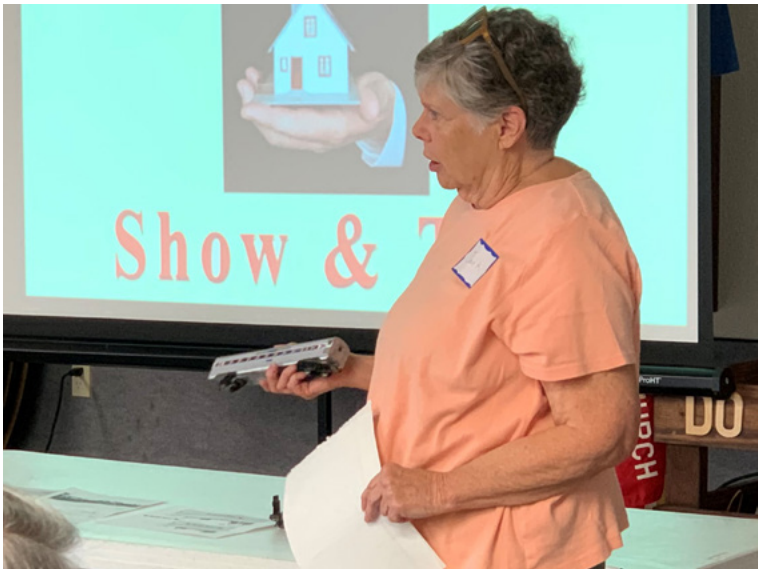


A detailed model of a bridge over a river with a waterfall. The bridge is made of wood and has a railing. The river is made of blue and green material, and the waterfall is made of white and green material. The surrounding landscape is made of brown and green material, representing rocks and grass. The model is placed on a white surface.

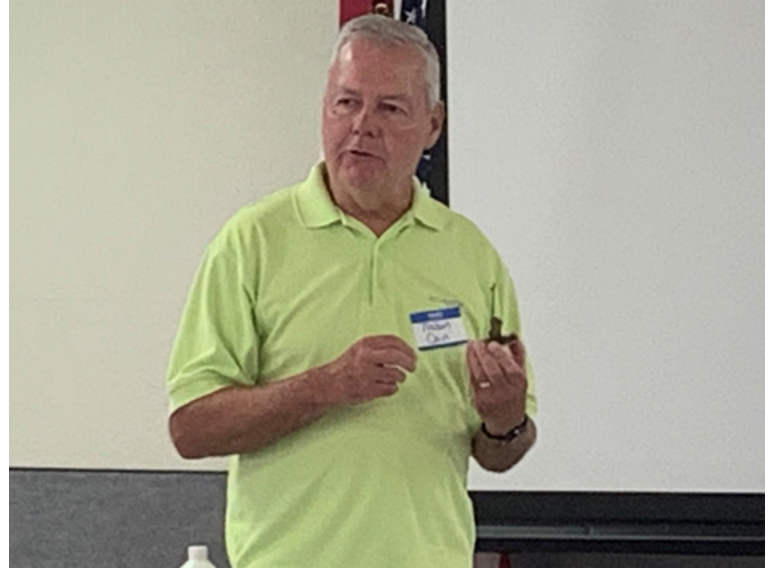
[illegible]

At our October Thomas Stephens shared his clubs experience of moving their entire layout to a new location. And this was not just once, but twice in a very short period of time.

Over this quarter we had several interesting show and tell projects. Here are a few pictures of those projects..



And we also had two AP awards, Official went to Marc LaChey and Melvin Richards received Chief Dispatcher. Hope you all had a Happy Halloween and are looking forward to a great Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday season.





CenTex Division 4

by Bob Thiele

director@centexnmra.org

CenTexNMRA.org



Division 4 has become a nonprofit organization and I am looking forward to making changes for the betterment of the division. One of the first items that needs to be tackled is developing a new website. I would like it to be user friendly so the membership has better communication. I am hoping to link the three major areas of the division together and to be able to interact in real time.

By press time the division will have had two get togethers in September and November. In September we had a discussion on construction using dimensional lumber and what the members can do to volunteer with the Austin Steam train. The members brought in numerous projects in to talk about at show and tell. The November clinic will be on building structure with plastic using the cut and snap technique. This will be a hands-on project for the membership.

One of the members will be displaying the Divisions logo on shirts for the membership to purchase. I hope everyone has a happy Holiday season.



Division 5

by Dave Lamberts

DavidWL1944@aol.com

806.792.7244

No report



Division 7

by Don Kimmell

elf4kcs@mac.com

318.798.7718

No report



Division 6

by Don Winn

donnswinn@gmail.com

940.391.0950

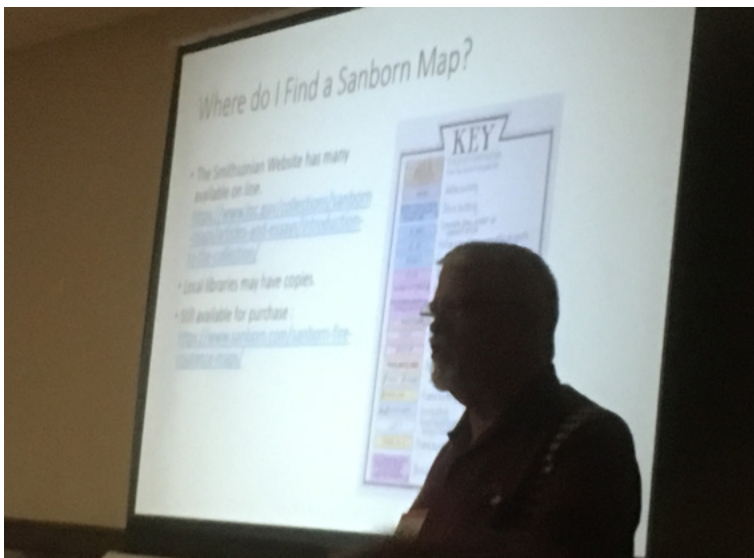
In August, we held another hands-on clinic, this one on hand-laying a turnout using the Fast Tracks tool method. An added benefit of building a turnout is gaining a better understanding of how both prototype and model turnouts are constructed. This clinic was prompted by one of our members who found that curved turnouts are not commercially available at present because of the loss of Shinohara. Reminder: if you have a need or desire to learn a particular skill, let me know and we can work on setting up clinic. It's your division, take advantage of the knowledge base we have here.

The end of September saw another South Texas Railroad Social event, which was very well attended. Doug Lowe presented a clinic on Railway Express Agency, followed by Ray Bennett's clinic on Layout Design Elements. The social also included Show-N-Tell, an NMRA update and interesting video clips. The SAMRA club layout was open for a layout tour afterwards. The next social is scheduled for December 14th at the Longhorn Café. Visit southtexasrr.com for more information on the quarterly events. It's free, it's fun, so come on out and join us.

The New Braunfels Train Show was held at the end of October, and was well-attended as always. We had an NMRA booth set up and I enjoyed chatting with a number of you, plus a lot of folks who were unaware of the NMRA. The loco test track is proving to be a popular point of interest, as I tested almost a dozen locos for buyers, plus a caboose (for lighting)! I came away from the show with several arm loads of boxcars.....

Activities coming up in February include the annual SAMRA Train Show and the LSR Regional Convention. Yes, it's in February this year, so start making plans now. The SAMRA show will be held on February 22-23 at the Garden Ridge Community Center. More information at <http://samratx.org/shows.html> The Lone Star regional convention is held in conjunction with the Houston Train Show, so that's an additional reason to attend. More information is on the convention website at <http://www.turbotrains.com/sunset2020/>, and additional information is elsewhere in the Marker Lamp.

I hope to see you there. As always, if there is anything we can do to help you in your modeling, please don't hesitate to contact me.





Texas Gulf Division 8

by Jim Lemond

jimlem@verzion.net

Division 8 Annual Meeting

The Division 8 Annual Picnic and Meeting was held on September 28, 2019, at Zube Park in Northwest Harris County. The Division held its election of Division Officers during the picnic. James Kelly was elected Division President. Chuck Lind was elected Division Vice-president. Ray Byer was elected Secretary. Tom Marsh was re-elected Treasurer for the Division.

LSR Convention 2020

web page: <http://www.turbotrains.com/sunset2020/>

The 2020 LSR Convention is moving ahead as planned. The web site is operational for hotel information, registration and clinic schedules. LSR registrants will have the free entrance into the Greater Houston Train Show on Saturday, February 15, 2020, with one-hour early entrance.

Remember LSR Youth Award nominations are due to the Division Directors by November 1, 2019.

The LSR Contest information is available on the 2020 Convention web page.

Upcoming Events in Division 8 for 2020.

Division 8 has a complete schedule of monthly clinics and workshops for 2020. All model railroaders are welcome to attend and participate. All events are held at the Bayland Center. 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They are as follows:
January 25th -- Gas station (Chuck) + Prejudging model / paperwork for contest

February 1st -- Prejudging model / paperwork for contest (Ray)

March 21st -- Scenery (Loren)

April 18th -- Intro to PanelPro (Jim)

May 16th -- Track Laying & Turnout wiring (TBD)

June 13th -- LED Lighting (TBD)

July 11th -- Keep Alives (Blake)

August 8th -- Passenger car detailing (TBD)

September 19th -- Block detection (TBD)

October 10th-- Soldering (TBD)

November 21st & December 12th -- Make & Take (TBD)

Annual Houston Area Layout Tour

The Houston Area Layout Tour begins on November 1, 2019 and last through December 14, 2019. The Tour guide for each week is available on the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club web page and is updated weekly. A special feature is an operating layout built and run by Hogg Intermediate School students and their sponsor JayC Williams.

San Jacinto Model Railroad Club web page: <http://san-jacmodeltrains.org/Fall-Layout-Tour.html>

Youth Award



by Jim Lemond, Youth Award Chair

jimlem@verzion.net

The nomination process for the LSR 2020 Youth Awards has begun. The deadline for Division Youth Award nominations is November 1, 2019. The Division nominations are due to the Youth Chairman by November 15, 2019. Nominations for the 2020 Youth Awards will be approved by the entire LSR Board of Directors via email ballot in December 2019. Awardees selected will be announced in January 2020.



Division 8 Clinic on Programming DCC Decoders



Programming a DCC locomotive with a MRC Programmer

Treasurer Report



by Speed Muller, Treasurer
lstrtreasurer@huntatrophym.com
469-345-0022

In the financial news: The Frisco convention brought in money 3 times higher than expected. That is a huge success, thank you to everyone who put in the hard work!

We still have memberships left for veterans and active service personnel.

First Semester, 2019/2020:

Beginning Balances (2019/05/01)

LSR Unrestricted Accounts	<u>\$38,677.69</u>
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth	\$38,677.69
Bob Clarke Award Fund	\$ 528.86
Division 2 and 7 Rebates in Escrow	\$ 78.50
Delattre Fund	<u>\$ 816.00</u>
Bank Saldo	\$40,101.05

Proceeds

NMRA Rebate	\$ 855.00
Convention proceeds	<u>\$ 3,504.00</u>
Total Proceeds	\$ 4,359.00

Disbursements

Rebates to Divisions	\$ 427.50
Non-rail Expenses	\$ 284.00
Contest Room Expenses	<u>\$ 399.29</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,110.79
Net Proceeds-Disbursements	\$-1,110.79

Updates to the Restricted Funds:

Division 2 Rebate out of Escrow	\$ -0.50
Division 5 Rebate into Escrow	\$ 10.50
Division 7 Rebate into Escrow	<u>\$ 10.50</u>
	20.50

Ending Balances (2019/10/31)

LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total	<u>\$41,925.90</u>
Total LSR Net Worth	\$41,925.90
Bob Clarke Award	\$ 528.86
Division 5 and 7 Rebates in Escrow	\$ 99.00
Delattre Fund	<u>\$ 816.00</u>
Bank Saldo	\$43,369.76

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Tom White Haughton, La.

Cowcatcher

Magazine

March/April 2014

www.cowcatchermagazine.com



Getting the right shot

With digital photography, layout photos
are easier to shoot but knowing the
basics are still just as essential

SGMA-MAC makes an impression

Texas Central aims to be first high-speed rail in U.S.

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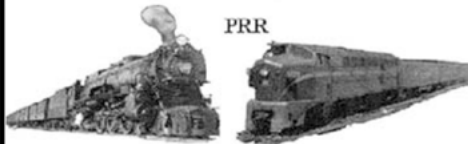


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